

A NEW NEARCTIC SPECIES OF *PELINA* (DIPTERA: EPHYDRIDAE)^{1,2}

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ABSTRACT: A new species of *Pelina* from Mexico is described and the existing species key is modified for its inclusion.

During the course of a revision of the genus *Parydra* for the Neotropical Region, I had the opportunity to examine a number of specimens of other genera from Mexico. Among a small sample of specimens from the collection of the University of Kansas, I found the first new species of *Pelina* since my revision of the genus. Therefore, this paper should be considered as a supplement to my revision (Clausen, 1973).

No species of *Pelina* are known to occur in the Neotropical Region and I still believe this to be true. Though the following species is described from a single specimen from Patzcuaro, the state of Michoacan in Mexico, I consider this as being within the southernmost extension of the Nearctic Region.

Pelina mexicana n. sp.

Type: Holotype ♂ from Patzcuaro, Michoacan, Mexico, IX-1-38, L. J. Lipowsky, deposited in the Snow Entomological Museum, University of Kansas.

Diagnosis: Apex of scutellum truncate, apical scutellar tubercules large, length R_{4+5} 1.70 mm, and length M_{1+2} 1.02 mm. Male with short, broad surstyli with pointed apices; gonites short, broad, recurved and blunt at apex; aedeagus short, broad, truncate at apex.

Description: MALE. Total body length 3.06 mm; shining black with brassy, coppery and grayish pruinosity.

Head shining black with brassy pruinosity except as noted; length 0.51 mm; 1 large and 2 slightly smaller pairs of orbital setae; vertex with brassy pruinosity above, becoming grayish below; gena black with grayish pruinosity. Face shining black with grayish pruinosity; parafacial setae convergent and arranged in 2 more or less distinct rows, top row with 1 large and 1 small seta, bottom row with 1 large and 2 small setae. Clypeus and mouthparts with grayish pruinosity. Antennae dark with brassy to grayish pruinosity; arista dark brown, very slightly plumose.

Thorax shining black with coppery pruinosity between acrostichal setal rows and laterally along dorsocentral setal rows, faint grayish pruinosity between acrostichal and dorsocentral setal rows, cuticle beneath grayish stripes with distinct, transverse, ripple-like, sculpturing; scutum length 0.82 mm; pleura shining black with brassy pruinosity above, becoming grayish anteriorly, posteriorly and below. Scutellum shining black with coppery pruinosity, length

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0.27 mm, truncate at apex, apical tubercles large, lateral tubercles absent, apical and lateral scutellar setae large. Legs black except tarsi reddish, all covered with grayish pruinosity; prothoracic tibiae with long yellow setae at apex; apex of mesothoracic tibiae each with black spur and 4 small, yellow, anterior setae; apex of metathoracic tibiae with yellow anterior setae and yellow posterior comb. **Wing** length from humeral crossvein 2.52 mm; width 0.99 mm; distance from h to R_1 0.58 mm; R_1 to R_{2+3} 1.39 mm; R_{2+3} to R_{4+5} 0.58 mm; R_{4+5} to M_1+2 0.31 mm; length R_{4+5} 1.70 mm; length M_1+2 1.02 mm; costal section from R_1 to R_{2+3} 2.4 times distance from h to R_1 ; R_1 to R_{2+3} 2.4 times distance from R_{2+3} to R_{4+5} ; and R_{2+3} to R_{4+5} 1.9 times distance from R_{4+5} to M_1+2 .

Abdomen as in Fig. 1; shining black with sparse brassy pruinosity; tergites 1 through 4 deeply sculptured dorsally, tergite 5 sculptured only along anterior dorsal margin. Sternite 1 absent; sternite 5 reduced to small, widely separated, round, lateral fragments.

Genitalia (Fig. 2). Note tergite 9 + surstyli, tapering to rather pointed apices. Paired gonites, short, broad, recurved and blunt at apices, fused anteriorly to sternite 6; gonial arch absent. Aedeagus large, short, broad, blunt with truncate apex.

FEMALE: Unknown.

Distribution. Known only from the type locality.

Specimens examined. The holotype σ with data as listed previously.

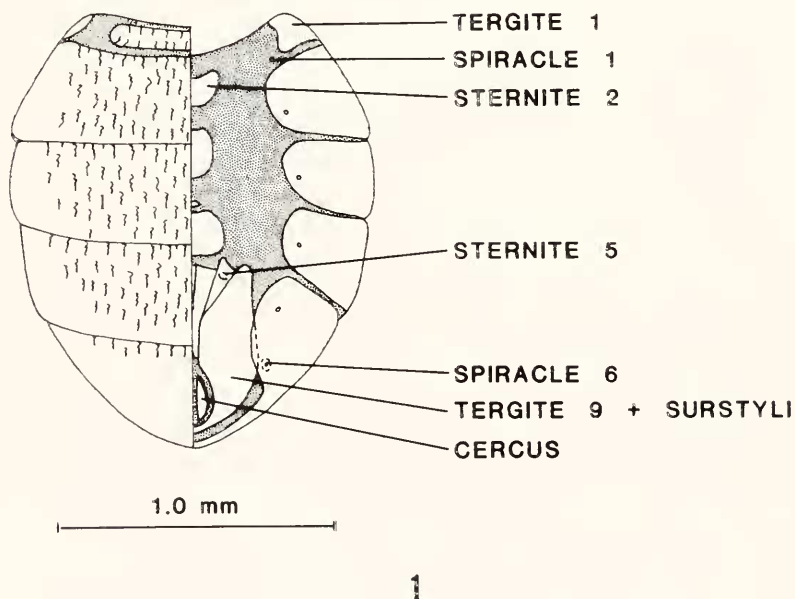


Fig. 1 Male abdomen — *Pelina mexicana* Clausen

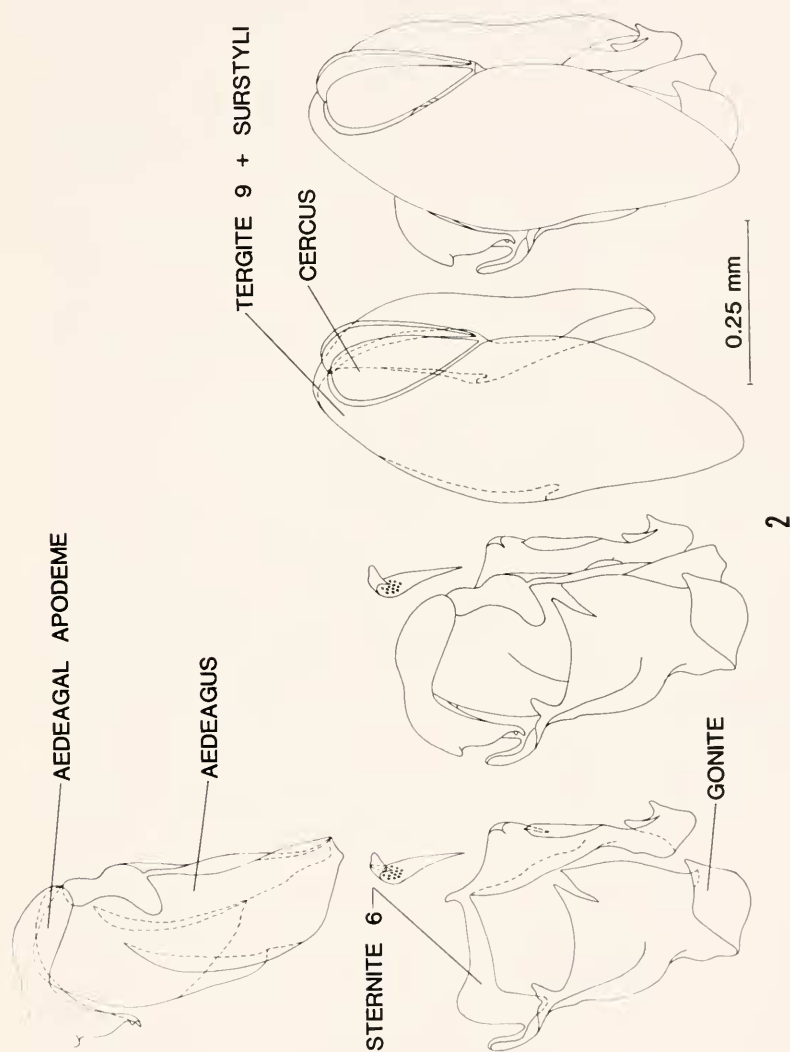


Fig. 2 Male genitalia — *Pelina mexicana* Clausen

To include *mexicana* in *Pelina*, the key in Clausen (1973) should be modified as follows:

7. Surstyli long, somewhat slender with bilobed apices; gonites long with pointed, somewhat hooked, posterior-projecting apices; aedeagus long, cylindrical and blunt at apex; abdomen and genitalia as in Figs. 10 and 26 (Clausen, 1973) **uncata** Clausen
- Surstyli short, broad, with pointed apices; gonites and aedeagus short, variously shaped 7A
- 7A. Gonites short, broad, recurved and blunt at apex; aedeagus short, broad, truncate at apex; abdomen and genitalia as in Figs. 1 and 2 **mexicana** n.sp.
- Gonites short, usually with pointed anterior and posterior projections; aedeagus short, somewhat scoop-shaped, with pointed apex. **truncatula** Loew 8

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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LITERATURE CITED

- Clausen, P.J. 1973. A revision of the Nearctic species of the genus *Pelina* (Diptera: Ephydriidae). Trans. Am. Ent. Soc. 99(2): 119-156.

SOCIETY MEETING OF NOVEMBER 14, 1984

The second regular meeting of The American Entomological Society was held on Wednesday evening, November 14, at the Academy of Natural Sciences, 1900 Race St., Philadelphia, PA. The meeting was called to order by President Mason. Ten members and one guest were present.

Under notes of entomological interest, Roger Fuester mentioned that two Pennsylvania counties had received serious 1984 defoliation from a double punch attack — gypsy moths in June and fall webworms later in the season.

The major items of business from the preceding Council meeting were reviewed by Secretary Roger Fuester. A substantial increase in the assets of the society was noted due, in large part, to the C.P. Alexander bequest. The nominating committee report was presented. The slate of officers for 1985 includes President: Roger W. Fuester; Vice President: Joseph K. Sheldon, Recording Secretary: Ronald F. Romig; Corresponding Secretary: Harold B. White; Treasurer: Jesse J. Freese.

Under new business, Sam Roback noted that the Academy is selling old issues of the Monographs of the Academy of Natural Science, plus large plate illustrations, from the 1800's.

The guest speaker, Dr. Richard Frederickson of St. Josephs University brought a most interesting slide presentation on collecting arthropods from Mexico to Alaska with particular reference to mites. Emphasis was on mites associated with microcommunities, lichens in particular. The fungus/alga interaction was described as a case of benign slavery of the alga by the fungus. In a geographical overview of several field expeditions, numerous "habitat" slides of typical microcommunities and their inhabitants were shown. The scenery was very nice in the "habitat" slides.

Joseph K. Sheldon
Vice President